

Every FFTF employee knows:



Karin Nickola, Fluor Hanford

When you walk down the main hall of the Operations Support Building at the Fast Flux Test Facility, one of the things you see prominently displayed is a colorful “busy” bulletin board with a simple but poignant message that reads: “Why I ~~work~~ live safely.”

There’s an identical bulletin board in the Maintenance Building. Displayed on both boards are photos of smiling family members, cherished pets, favorite vacation spots, and average people involved in everyday activities that add value and meaning to life.

“It’s very heart-warming,” said one employee. “The displays make one you good about life, good about work, and cognizant of the need for a positive relationship between the two.”

The bulletin boards are also symbols of something bigger. FFTF employees have created a safety culture in which safety resonates through every aspect of daily work practices. And their long-standing exemplary safety statistics continue to validate their efforts.



SAFE AND SECURE: Ironworkers on a boom, right, and a scissor lift guide an interim storage cask tie-down assembly into place at the Fast Flux Test Facility. Once installed, the ISC transporter will carry the cask to the interim storage area pad outside. FFTF employees have built an integrated safety program that successfully prepares workers to perform such tasks.

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Every FFTF employee knows, cont.

How they work safely

Safety councils are paramount at FFTF, and they include the Safety Awareness Council, the ALARA/P2 (as low as reasonable achievable/Pollution Prevention) Council, and monthly group safety meetings.

The facility maintains a wealth of safety logbooks including ALARA/P2 logbooks, facility-safety/close-call logbooks, and a plant (control room) logbook, as well as a safety-council suggestion form and suggestion box.

To continue their safe maintenance and operations work, the facility employees conduct “operations housekeeping” tours, monthly shop inspections and annual Hanford fire-protection assessments. A *Fire Hazards Analysis* document is kept up to date and there is daily work oversight by safety professionals. DOE Voluntary Protection Program self-assessments are conducted annually. FFTF has used the Safety Improvement Plan process since 1995 to identify issues, opportunities and actions needed to enhance safety performance.

Facility managers also give on-the-spot safety recognition to employees. And the employees are comforted to know that there’s an emergency response team trained in first aid and a group of people qualified to operate the automatic external defibrillators, or AEDs.

“A clear understanding of, belief in, and willingness to use the Fluor Hanford stop-work authority without fear of reprisal is also a vital part of the FFTF safety culture,” said acting project director Bruce Klos. “Any employee can and will put a stop to the work if he or she sees something about it that’s not safe.”

One final safety feature worth noting is the facility’s willingness to seek guidance from outside resources such as the Fire Marshal’s Advisory Board, the Hanford Fire Protection Forum, the Hanford Electrical Control Board, the Hanford Workplace Electrical Safety Board, and the Hanford Hoisting and Rigging Committee. At FFTF, safety counts! And each element of FFTF’s safety program contributes to safe work actions that enable employees to return home unharmed every work day. ■



Employees at the Fast Flux Test Facility take pride in flying their hard-earned VPP “star” flag.